

Single Effect

Every character, incident, and detail contributes to an overall impression

Gothic

- Story is set in bleak or remote places
- The plot involves macabre or violence
- Characters are in psychological and/or physical torment
- A supernatural or otherworldly element is often present

The Fall of the House of Usher

- Poe's effect
- Romantic writing often accented the fantastic aspects of human experience.
- Diction & Mood see paragraph 1-3

characters

- Narrator
- Roderick Usher
- Madeline Usher
- The doctor

Introduction: mood

- “dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year”
- Oppressively
- Insufferable
- Bleak walls
- Vacant eyelike windows
- Decayed trees
- “mansion of gloom”
- *SINGLE EFFECT*

Narrator & Usher

- Knew each other as boys
- Usher send him a letter:
- “gave evidence of a nervous agitation”
- “the writer spoke of acute bodily illness”
- “a mental disorder which oppressed him”

Usher family

- Ancient family
- Liked music
- “the stem of the Usher race...had put forth...any enduring branch: in other words, that the entire family lay in the direct line of descent.”
- “it was this defiencey”

The House

- Fungi overspread the whole exterior
- A barely perceptible fissure, which, extending from the roof of the building in front, made its way down the wall in a zigzag direction

Narrator enters House

- Somber tapestries
- Blackness of floors
- “on one of the staircases, I met the physician of the family. He accosted me with trepidation and passed on”
- Usher arose from a sofa and greets the narrator with vivacious warmth

Usher

- Find the description p. 313 at the top
- “he suffered much from a morbid acuteness of the senses”
- “he had never ventured forth”

Lady Madeline

- Beloved sister
- Sole companion
- “her decease, would leave him the last of the ancient race of the Ushers”
- A baffling disease
- “a gradual wasting away of the person...cataleptical...unusual diagnosis”
- “She succumbed to the prostrating power of the destroyer”

Why did Usher send for the Narrator?

- P. 314

Song

- “The Haunted Palace” Roderick’s fear of madness
- Describes the demise of the Ushers
- The palace stands for a human head and mind.
A disordered Brain
- Final Stanza imagery suggest presence of madness
- Wrote poem & published 5 months
- “by the Haunted Palace I mean to imply a mind haunted by phantoms—a disordered brain.”
- After the song...R + H =